The Year of Secret Assignments Becka O’Neil

Jaclyn Moriarty Honors class 6/7

I read *The Year of Secret Assignments* by Jaclyn Moriarty. It’s about two rival schools who set up a pen pal program. It focuses on three pairs and their adventures because of the program. The three girls from Ashbury are Cassie, Lydia and Emily who are best friends. Their Pen pals are Charlie, Matthew, and Sebastian from Brookfield High. Each pair is so unique. The book spans from just before the program until it ends. The ups and downs are hilarious and the amazing plot line helps it along while still gives a great message. It covers so many issues like trust, death, abuse, threats, revenge, ploys and of course, secret assignments. When Lydia and Emily find out that Matthew doesn’t actually exist, trouble ensues, and no one can deny the shock when the pen pal program is stopped unexpectedly. Attacks on the schools and dates add even more drama. I don’t want to give too much away, but it is definitely worth the read.

I loved this book. It covers a great deal of emotion and romanticism. It’s not really a male book, but some parts are absolutely boyish. Another thing is, it’s written in letter form, with no true dialogue, so anyone who dislikes letters may have a hard time with *Finding Cassie Crazy* as it’s called in Australia. There is some swearing, and a couple of awkward moments. Add to that Aussie slang, hormonal teenagers and dysfunctional families, you have an amazingly unique and fun book. You may not like this book if you don’t like any of the things I’ve mention, or if you hate Australia.

There are plenty of things for everyone to enjoy, and I highly recommend this novel, along with others by Jaclyn Moriarty.